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Letter dated 30 December 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government I am transmitting herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, dated 29 December 2016, on the diversionary incursion attempt by Azerbaijan into the State border with Armenia, which resulted in the loss of lives (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tigran **Samvelian**
Charge d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 December 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

29 December 2016

We condemn in the strongest terms today's diversionary incursion attempt by Azerbaijan into the State border with Armenia, which resulted in the loss of lives. We express our deepest condolences to the relatives and fellow servicemen of the fallen soldiers.

While the most serious damage caused to the settlement process as a result of the Azerbaijani aggression against Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) in April 2016 has not yet been overcome, Baku is embarking on a new adventurism grossly violating the agreements reached at the Vienna and Saint Petersburg summits and the commitment to settle the issue through peaceful means. This is how Baku responds to the Foreign Ministers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chair countries who urged, in Hamburg, strict adherence to the 1994 and 1995 ceasefire agreements.

On numerous occasions, the international community, through the Co-Chairs, has called to maintain the ceasefire, especially during the holidays. By undertaking military diversionary incursions on Christmas and New Year's Eve, Baku is acting against universal human values.

The international community, first and foremost the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, should take immediate steps to sober up the Azerbaijani leadership, who has lost the sense of reality and who ignores and opposes with defiance their calls and demands.